

## Message Text

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FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL ONLY  
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SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - DEC. 10 - DEC. 16

A. PSYCHOLOGICAL

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1. BASES DOMINATE HEADLINES AGAIN - THE REPORTED POSTPONEMENT OF  
BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND A MAJOR ADDRESS ON THE SUBJECT BY PRESIDENT  
MARCOS LAST WEEKEND BROUGHT ON A SPATE OF EDITORIALS DENOUNCING  
AMERICAN CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND PREDICTING BETTER TIMES  
UNDER CARTER.

AFTER HEAVY COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH ON MONDAY, THE  
DAILY EXPRESS ON TUESDAY BEGAN THREE DAYS OF EDITORIALS, EXCEPTIONAL  
FOR LENGTH AND SHARPNESS. THE TUESDAY EDIT, "HOPELESSLY MIRED IN  
LIES ABOUT RP?", BERATED THE U.S. PRESS AND STATE DEPARTMENT  
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"PRESSURE", BUT MANAGED TO SAY SOME NICE THINGS ABOUT ENDURING U.S./  
R.P. RELATIONS. WEDNESDAY'S EXPRESS EDIT PREPARED FOR THE  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION BY DENUNCIATION OF THE  
OLD. THE EDIT RECOUNTED MUCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE BASE NEGOTIA-  
TIONS AND LEAKS AND CONCLUDED:

"...WHEN KISSINGER SAT DOWN AGAIN WITH ROMULO PURPORTEDLY TO

RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASES ISSUE, THE PRINCIPAL INTENTION WAS ACTUALLY TO TORPEDO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETELY SO THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE SET BACK TO ZERO AND THE PHILIPPINES WILL HAVE TO START AGAIN FROM SCRATCH WITH THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION. NATURALLY, THIS WOULD MEAN MORE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS AND A LONGER LEASE ON LIFE FOR THE STATUS QUO ON THE BASES..."

ON THURSDAY, THE EXPRESS COMPLETED ITS PREMISE:

"IN THE LIGHT OF ...PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT HE FAVORS THE STRENGTHENING OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH ITS ALLIES AND THAT MORALITY WILL GUIDE HIS CONDUCT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, THERE IS TO OUR MIND, MUCH VALIDITY IN GENERAL ROMULO'S PREDICTION THAT RP-US RELATIONS WILL TAKE A TURN FOR THE BEST RATHER THAN FOR THE WORST."

THE BULLETIN TODAY ECHOED THESE SENTIMENTS IN AN EDITORIAL OF ITS OWN:

"...AND IF WE WERE TO JUDGE BY HIS (CARTER'S) PRONOUNCEMENTS, THE CHANCES FOR BREAKTHROUGH IN THE BASES TALKS SHOULD BE MORE THAN EVEN. MR. CARTER WILL CERTAINLY ADHERE TO THE BASIC AMERICAN POLICY OF ANCHORING AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS ON MUTUAL TRUST, RESPECT, AND EQUALITY."

THE TIMES JOURNAL'S U.S. -BAITING COLUMNIST ERNESTO O. GRANADA CHIMED IN:

"...CONTINUATION OF THE BASES NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOW HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, WHICH WILL BE INSTALLED ON JANUARY 20. AND THIS IS POSSIBLY TO OUR BENEFIT...CYRUS VANCE... IS NOT AS AUTHORITARIAN AND ABRASIVE AS HENRY KISSINGER. BUT IN THE END IT WILL BE THE FIRM POSITION OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THAT WILL COUNT. THAT IS THE ONLY DEFENSE TO AMERICAN BULLY DIPLOMACY. AND THE FACT THAT THEY NEED THE BASES MORE THAN WE DO."

TEODORO VALENCIA OF THE EXPRESS WAS FARTHEST OUT, AS USUAL, UNCLASSIFIED

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AS HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PHILIPPINES SIMPLY TELL THE AMERICANS TO GET OUT, RECOGNIZING THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD USE THEIR GUNS TO HOLD ONTO THE BASES ANYWAY. THEN HE LASHED OUT AT THE AMERICAN PRESS: "...THE AMERICAN PRESS, INSPIRED BY THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT, HAS ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN POISONING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT US. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MANILA IS PROBABLY GOING TO CHALK THIS AS ITS MOST IMPORTANT SUCCESS SINCE MARTIAL LAW... WE'RE NOT BLAMELESS. ROMULO HAD BEEN GIVING OUT HIS OWN PRESS RELEASES. ON THE WHOLE, I CAN SEE IT NOW - THE US WAS OUT TO BUILD HIGH EXPECTATIONS AMONG OUR PEOPLE SO THAT WHEN THE LET-DOWN HAPPENS, OUR PEOPLE WILL HATE OUR PANEL AND THE PRESIDENT (MARCOS), HOPEFULLY. OUR FAULT WAS WE FELL FOR THE TRAP..."

2. BLAME IT ON THE GIS - REACTING DEFENSIVELY TO NEWS REPORTS ABOUT A NEW PENICILLIN-RESISTANT STRAIN OF GONORRHEA ORIGINATING IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE TIMES JOURNAL REPORTS, "IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT AMERICAN SOLDIERS BROUGHT THE DISEASE TO OLONGAPO AND ANGELES CITY DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. IT WAS KNOWN AS THE 'VIET-

NAM ROSE,' HEALTH UNDERSECRETARY JESUS C. AZURIN SAID YESTERDAY." THIS ANGLE IS BEING USED IN SEVERAL UNLIKELY QUARTERS, INCLUDING AS "JUSTIFICATION" BY SOME LOCAL PHILIPPINE HEALTH AUTHORITIES FOR REFUSING TO JOIN IN COOPERATIVE CAMPAIGNS TO COUNTER THE DISEASE'S SPREAD.

3. TRIP WORTHWHILE - THE BULLETIN TODAY, DESPITE THE CONTINUING PRESS CAMPAIGN TO QUESTION THE QUALITY OF U.S. JUSTICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER TRIAL OF THE FILIPINA NURSES IN DETROIT, RAN A LENGTHY AND POSITIVE PIECE BY SAN FRANCISCO STRINGER A.F. PAREDES TITLED "MORE THAN 1-M PINOYS NOW IN US." THE STORY ACKNOWLEDGED ADJUSTMENT DIFFICULTIES FACED BY FILIPINO IMMIGRANTS BUT WENT ON AT LENGTH ABOUT FILIPINO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUCCESSESS IN THE U.S.

MEANWHILE BULLETIN NEWS EDITOR TEDDY OWEN, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A MONTH ON THE IVP CIRCUIT ADDED FOUR COMPLIMENTARY PIECES ON HIS AMERICAN TRAVELS THIS WEEK. ALL NONCONTROVERSIAL.  
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#### B. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

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MORE ON PENNEBAKER PROGRAMS - AMSPEC DONN ALAN PENNEBAKER, INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER, DEPARTED THE PHILIPPINES DECEMBER 11 AFTER A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 20-DAY VISIT. PENNEBAKER CONDUCTED 2-DAY SEMINARS IN CEBU AND DAVAO AND SEVERAL LECTURES, 2-PART WORKSHOPS, 9-PART DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL, AND 3-DAY SEMINAR IN MANILA. ALL PROGRAMS WERE ATTENDED BASICALLY BY FILM SPECIALISTS (FILMMAKERS, CRITICS, TV NEWS PERSONNEL, PROFESSORS OF FILM COURSES, ETC, BUT AUDIENCES ALSO INCLUDED MANY IMPORTANT POST CONTRACTS IN OTHER FIELDS WHO HAVE STRONG PERSONAL INTERESTS IN FILMS.

PENNEBAKER WAS ARTICULATE, PERSONABLE, COOPERATIVE AND CANDID, AND MADE AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON PEOPLE HE MET HERE. HIS PROGRAMS WERE JUDGED VERY EFFECTIVE IN CREATING POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF AMERICAN FILM ART AMONG KEY INTELLECTUALS, IN ACQUAINTING THEM WITH BEST EXAMPLES OF U.S. DOCUMENTARY FILM, PAST AND PRESENT, AND IN DEMONSTRATING U.S. INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF FILMMAKERS HERE.  
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